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Typed or Printed Name	Margaret Pierce	Express Mail No.	EL 563 388 228 US
Signature	<i>MP Pierce</i>	Date	December 29, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Address to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket	IRVN-007CON2
	First Named Inventor	Gatanaga et al.
	Application Number	Unassigned
	Filing Date	Herewith (December 29, 2000)
	Group Art Unit	Unassigned
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
	Title: "FACTORS AFFECTING TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR RECEPTOR RELEASING ENZYME ACTIVITY"	

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

On page 1, line 4, after the first instance of the word "application", insert --is a continuation of US Application Serial No. 09/712,813, filed November 13, 2000 and --.

On page 1, line 4, after "of", insert --International Application No. PCT/US99/10793, filed May 14, 1999 and --

On page 1, line 6, delete "application is" and insert therefore --applications are--.

On page 1, line 6, delete "its" and insert therefore --their--.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-32 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

--33. A method of screening substances for an ability to affect TRRE activity, comprising:
a) incubating TNF receptor or cells expressing TNF receptor with a polypeptide in the presence of the substance;

- b) measuring any TNF receptor cleaved; and
- c) correlating any increase or decrease of the receptor released by the peptide with an ability of the substance to enhance or diminish TRRE activity;
wherein the polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:
 - i) it comprises at least 10 consecutive amino acid residues encoded in any of SEQ. ID NOS:1-10; or
 - ii) it comprises at least 15 consecutive amino acids that are at least 80% identical to a sequence encoded in any of SEQ. ID NOS:1-10.

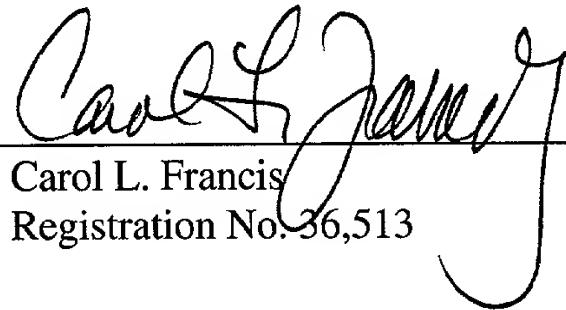
34. The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:

- i) it comprises at least 10 consecutive amino acid residues contained in SEQ. ID NOS: 147-149, 151, or 153-154; or
- ii) it comprises at least 15 consecutive amino acids that are at least 80% identical to a sequence contained in SEQ. ID NOS: 147-149, 151, or 153-154.--

No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

This amendment is being filed with a transmittal letter/fee sheet. In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that extensions or other relief is required and/or fees are due, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0815 for any fees due in connection with the filing of this document.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Carol L. Francis
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Date: December 29, 2000

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Margaret Pierce

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CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION

"FACTORS AFFECTING TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR RECEPTOR RELEASING ENZYME ACTIVITY"

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